



Energy and Technology Committee
Public Hearing of March 3, 2022

Senate Bill No. 176 (Raised) - AN ACT CONCERNING SHARED CLEAN ENERGY FACILITIES.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the **National Audubon Society** through its affiliate state office, Audubon Connecticut. My name is Robert LaFrance and I am Audubon Connecticut's Director of Policy.

Audubon Connecticut protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, using science, bipartisan issue advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. Our conservation network extends statewide and includes nearly 32,000 members, five Connecticut chapters, and many partners along the Atlantic Flyway. Audubon's policy work is grounded in—and informed by—science. At Audubon, our core values demand that our work advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Senate Bill No. 176 (Raised) - AN ACT CONCERNING SHARED CLEAN ENERGY FACILITIES:

Audubon strongly supports second provision of section 4 of Senate Bill No. 176 that reads:

(NEW) (g) Notwithstanding the size-to-load provisions of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section, the entire rooftop space of a customer's own premises developed pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section and owned by a commercial or industrial customer may be used for purposes of electricity generation.

This provision would allow for the entirety of a commercial or industrial customer's roof space to be used for zero emission renewable energy generation under the nonresidential renewable energy tariff program. Expansion of this type solar installation should help reduce development pressure on forest and on other ecologically significant property in Connecticut while moving us closer to our climate mitigation goals. Further, this expansion should also include solar installations on parking canopies associated with commercial and industrial property. We also support expansion of this provision to municipal and school (private and public) rooftops and parking canopies.

In closing, the National Audubon Society relies upon the enormous generosity of our members and donors to keep our mission going. As a 501(c) not for profit entity the National Audubon Society manages many properties in Connecticut. We make these properties available to the public so that both residents and visitors alike can enjoy birds and an open space experience. These are Connecticut eco-tourism experiences where we provide natural resource and

conservation education. The link below provides additional information about our centers, sanctuaries, properties and programs. <http://ct.audubon.org/about-us/centers-sanctuaries-and-chapters>

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. Should you have any questions, please contact Robert LaFrance, Director of Policy, Audubon Connecticut, National Audubon Society, at Robert.LaFrance@Audubon.org (Cell 203.668.6685)